

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WARSAW 02479 090853Z
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/102 W

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R 090735Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

UNCLAS WARSAW 2479

EO 11652N/A
TAGS: MBFR, PFOR, PINT, PL
SUBJ: POLISH ECHOES OF SOVIET COMMENTARY ON MBFR

REF: USDEL MBFR VIENNA 0176

1. SUMMARY: ZYCIE WARSZAWY OF APRIL 8 CARRIES A LONG REPORT FROM ITS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT JERZY SIERADZINSKI, ABOUT SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. CONTENDING THAT PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA TALKS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, SIERADZINSKI CHARGES THE WEST WITH SEEKING TO WREST MILITARY ADVANTAGES FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS AND OF IMPEDING PROGRESS BY REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE ON "REALISTIC" GROUND. END SUMMARY.

2. SIERADZINSKI REFERS TO THE EASTERN FORCE REDUCTION
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PROPOSAL OF 1973 AND TO CPSU GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S REITERATION OF THE SOVIET MBFR POSITION AT LAST MONTH'S TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN MOSCOW. HE ARGUES THAT THE EASTERN SIDE HAS ADVANCE MANY PROPOSALS, ALL TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CITES SOVIET AGREEMENT TO A FIRST PHASE SOVIET-US FORCE REDUCTION, WITH A FORCE

LEVEL FREEZE BY THE REMAINING PARTICIPANTS. HE CONDEMNS WESTERN INSISTENCE ON COLLECTIVE FORCE LEVELS, WHICH, HE CHARGES, "WOULD FACTUALLY LEGALIZE THE RIGHT TO INCREASE FORCE AND EQUIPMENT LEVELS OF SELECTED NATO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING, OBVIOUSLY, THE BUNDESWEHR." SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS, CLAIMS SIERADZINSKI, WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN ALL CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. SIERADZINSKI ALSO CRITICIZES THE US OFFER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN EUROPE IN EXCHANGE FOR EASTERN REDUCTIONS IN OTHER TYPES OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS AS NOT REPRESENTING A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE VIENNA TALKS.

4. THE AUTHOR CITES SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY TO THE EFFECT THAT, IN THE SOVIET VIEW, THE WESTERN MBFR PROPOSALS ARE DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE TO THE WEST'S ADVANTAGE. HE SAYS THEAT WESTERN "PROPAGANDA" CHARGES OF SOVIET MILITARY SUPERIORITY HAVE BEEN PROVEN HOLLOW BY THE DECLARATIONS OF WESTERN POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER, WHO HAVE SAID THAT THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF NATO EQUALS THAT OF THE WARSAW PACT. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST POLISH PRESS DISCUSSION OF THE MBFR TALKS IN SOME TIME. PERHAPS IT IS PROMPTED BY APRIL 4 DEVELOPMENTS (REF).
DAVIES

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